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FALL 1964

Number 3

# THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS



# THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 3

FALL 1964

W. Harley Webster, Editor

## CONTENTS

|                                                                                        |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| The Preservation of Deserts . . . . .                                                  | 3  |
| New Life Members . . . . .                                                             | 5  |
| The President's Message . . . . .                                                      | 6  |
| Emblem Awards of The Nature Conservancy . . . . .                                      | 6  |
| Financial Statement . . . . .                                                          | 7  |
| Conference and 15th Annual Meeting . . . . .                                           | 8  |
| Conservancy Elects Officers, Board of Governors . . . . .                              | 10 |
| At Moss Lake . . . . .                                                                 | 11 |
| American Motors Corporation<br>Conservation Awards for 1963 . . . . .                  | 11 |
| The Nature Conservancy Receives Award<br>from the U.S. National Park Service . . . . . | 12 |
| State and Chapter Notes . . . . .                                                      | 13 |
| Book Reviews . . . . .                                                                 | 14 |
| Upper Priest Lake, Idaho . . . . .                                                     | 15 |

**COVER:** View from thorofare outlet of Upper Priest Lake, Idaho. Photo by Huey D. Johnson, Western Regional Director of The Nature Conservancy. See story on page 15.

The Editor solicits the donation of news items, notes and photographs dealing with various aspects of The Nature Conservancy's work and conservation. If possible, all written material should be typewritten, double spaced and on one side of the paper only. Photographs and negatives should be properly labeled. When possible, negatives should accompany photographs. The Nature Conservancy will make every effort to return material submitted. However, it assumes no financial responsibility for its safe return. In connection with feature articles, please query the Editor first, so that he can advise you concerning the magazine's requirements.

# THE PRESERVATION OF DESERTS

by

Dr. Edmund C. Jaeger,  
Curator of Plants, Riverside Municipal Museum,  
Riverside, California; author of *The North  
American Deserts*, *Desert Wildlife*, *The Cali-  
fornia Deserts*, *Desert Wildflowers*, and many  
other treatises on the ecology of the West.

Our beautiful deserts are wholly the creation of Nature. Some of them are among the most appealing of our scenic wonderlands. Their broad basins, long intermountain valleys, their bizarre land forms such as volcanic buttes, mesas, bajadas and often barren but majestic mountains rising like colorful spires or spines from the surrounding near-level creosote bush or sage brush, are places which left undisturbed minister mightily to the pleasure and ennoblement of man's mind.

Here are lands of expansive vistas, of exceedingly clear clean skies, sometimes flecked with clouds brilliantly white. Here we see mountains charmingly colored in pastel shades of blue or magenta, and after ample summer or winter rains, look upon huge expanses of floral color.



Sagebrush and Yucca Desert

Most unfortunate it is that, perhaps more than any portion of our land heritage, our deserts are looked upon by many as the most expendable, and without question mere wastelands that if possible should be utilized for utilitarian gain. Even to many "conservationists", conservation means efficient exploitation of the land, getting all possible out of it while perpetuating enough of what is left to serve as "seed" for successive exploitations.

To these people the terms yield and harvest are often-to-be-used and sacred words. They look upon nature with satisfaction only so long as it can yield financial returns, feed more animals and human beings, provide clothing and shelter and supply means for paid-recreation for man. They would almost completely "make-over" nature leaving the "mandid-it-look" upon almost every part of it. They envision almost every part of the yet untouched desert as near to worthless but if possible it must be supplied with water for growing crops or provided with "improvements" where people can live and engage in pay-recreation of the man-made sort such as golfing, hunting and fishing. They appreciate very little nature's true amenities.

Up to now the erstwhile beautiful deserts of southern California, southern Arizona and southern Nevada with their warm winter climates have been utilized most for building and subdivision. I fear the tendency to "develop" there is irreversible: there's too much money to be made by it. As irrigation waters are further made available by desalinization of seawater and the building of vast systems of aqueducts and upland reservoirs very few enclaves of primitive beauty can be saved. Because of destruction of natural habitats many of the native birds, insects and mammals must forever disappear.

Another great menace to desert preservation are the activities of the military establishments which have had truly vast areas in the far western states reserved for their activities and which are ever seeking out the reservation of new desert lands. Instead of cooperating and combining their efforts and together utilizing areas already set aside for them each branch of the services desires its own huge land area.

This year has witnessed the very grave destruction of the middle and eastern

Mohave Desert in an activity called Desert Strike in which a hundred thousand men and numerous kinds of heavy equipment milled around for nearly a month often utterly destroying desert vegetation, wildlife and wildlife habitats over an enormous area. It appears that little if any thought was given to the preservation of the natural amenities of this magnificent sweep of fragile desert. Not in a hundred years can the damage be repaired by nature even if no further such activities take place.



Rock Desert of the Death Valley region

Poorly conceived, still more poorly administered was the desert small tract act sometimes called the Jack-rabbit Homestead Act. Instead of giving weekend desert homes to people who love and respect the desert it became the opportunity for speculators who for a fee located tract sites and then sold to people (often speculators too) miserably planned and flimsily built box-like structures which were placed by the thousands, dotting the landscape like mushrooms and making a horrible festering eye-sore. Most of the tract homes were never occupied even for a night and became subject to vandalism. The paint is now peeling off, roofs have been blown off by the strong winds, windows and doors have been destroyed and some of the small shacks have been burned.

Some County Planning Commissions have designated large areas of remote desert lands for future use by heavy industry, feeling that noxious gases and air polluting dust would do little harm or the

dumping of wastes would not arouse public anger.

Los Angeles City at one time sought the right to run long daily trains carrying garbage, street litter and other city wastes to the Colorado Desert there to dump it. Fortunately the municipality was defeated in its efforts. But the indiscriminate casting off of garbage and litter by individuals living on the desert still goes on: it is a very widespread practice. Sometimes folks drive many miles to find some rock formation or wash, often very beautiful ones, to dispose of their wastes and there it stays for many years. In the dry air tin cans rust little, the old mattresses, chairs and what-nots last on and on, broken pottery and glass last indefinitely: in damp climates some of the trash might disintegrate or at least be covered by kindly disposed vegetation which would spring up and, as if ashamed of man, try to cover it.

The late winter and spring herding of sheep brought in great numbers from as far away as Idaho, Nevada and Montana by means of railroads and trucks has presented a great conservation and preservation problem. The "four-footed locusts" are particularly destructive to the annual wildflower fields since they leave little but hoof-trampled dusty ground behind them and most all of the ripening seeds are eaten. Not only public lands but private properties suffer from this grazing of sheep. Property owners protesting mightily have recently been given some protection in San Bernardino County, California by a county ordinance which makes the sheep owners responsible for damages if they allow their animals to graze on private lands without a permit from the land-owner. It has made sheep herders much more careful about where they operate.

The Desert Protective Council with its more than 800 members has done valiant service in protecting the amenities of our deserts. Initially it was organized to thwart the efforts of persistent commercial interests to build a short-cut road through the heart of the Joshua Tree National Monument and thus channel trade from the Marine Base near Twentynine Palms to the Coachella Valley. In this effort the Council was successful, but since those years it has from year to year

marked up many other accomplishments in protecting our deserts from exploiters and in doing many positive things to encourage desert preservation. This well respected and very influential organization of devoted desert lovers has sponsored lectures, circulated educational leaflets, worked hand in hand with other conservation organizations, thwarted efforts to despoil the desert of its wildflower fields, originated and encouraged the passage and enforcement of laws protecting desert animals (particularly the desert tortoise) and trees. It has also been a leader in getting portions of desert lands set aside for parks and wholesome recreational activities.



Tree-yucca Desert of the Mohave region

In thinking of desert nature reserves it is well to plan to have small ones as well as large ones. Small ones of several to a hundred acres to preserve a particular land mark or other natural feature can be very helpful. But large ones are most to be sought for desert connotes vastness, great sweeps of land untouched by the often grimy hand of man who is given to taking over the land and cluttering it with his "developments" of roads, subdivisions, etc.

Even large reserves such as Joshua Tree National Monument, Anza-Borrego State Park and Death Valley National Monument need to be increased in size now before it is forever too late. There must be more places where people driving two-wheeled vehicles and jeeps cannot tear up the land by racing unrestricted over desert stretches for the mere satisfaction of raising dust, swiftly moving or jolting the body. These people often find more delight in frightening wild game than in observing the ways of shy wilderness denizens.

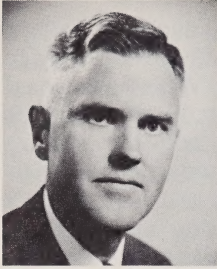
All too often public agencies when thinking of desert parks think mostly in terms of providing picnic tables, clumsy impractical stone stoves, shelters from sun, and rest rooms, the same kind of conveniences provided in parks, in the forests, at sea-shores and places close to cities. These may be good in their place but hardly are what nature admirers and perservers of the charm of desert wilderness like to see encouraged on any large scale.

An ideal desert preserve, especially if a small one, should provide only the minimum of camping facilities. It is enough to have a very few access roads which reach only to the perimeters. Water need not be provided. Let people bring their water even as they bring their food. In order are a few nature trails to educate people concerning the natural history of deserts and a center where lectures can be given by competent leaders.

#### NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Miss Elisabeth Achelis  
Mr. Leland Anderson  
Mr. Elting Arnold  
Dr. Eslie Asbury  
Mrs. James Benedict  
Mrs. Muriel Buttinger  
Mr. A. Elliott Castello  
Miss Katherine P. Chambers  
Mr. G. Warren Cochrane, Jr.  
Mr. Ben B. Coffey, Jr.  
Mr. George L. Collins  
Mr. Delos E. Culver  
Mrs. H. H. d'Autremont  
Dr. A. B. Dayton  
Dr. J. Arthur Herrick  
Mr. Stephen A. Kaufman

(List continued on page 13)



Dr. Goodwin

## The President's Message

During the past year the entire operations of The Nature Conservancy have been under careful study by the Board of Governors. The purpose of this activity has been to see what steps should be taken to increase still further the efficiency of our already highly effective organization, in order that it might better meet the challenging demands of our times. Any agency that has experienced a ten-fold growth—and that is what has happened to most aspects of the Conservancy's structure and program during the past decade—will profit from such a careful appraisal. I shall hope to report on the results of this analysis in subsequent issues of the News.

One important area examined was the whole question of financial support. More funds are desperately needed for the expanding work of the Conservancy. Several factors are involved. These include inflation and the increased complexity of our operations as we assume responsibilities for the preserves acquired. We would like to look at our members for some of this additional support. If you will study the financial report which appears on page seven, you will see that membership dues accounted for only \$23,000 of our national expenses last year—about 16% of the total. Of course, much of the \$129,000 of contributions also came from members—a wonderful demonstration of faith in our enterprise. However, the number of people giving this sum is very small. The Governors are reluctant to recommend an increase in the \$5 minimum for membership. But as your President I want to ask each of you to see if you can increase the level of your membership support. We should try to bring in new members too, but at least at the \$10 level! It would be wonderful if we could at least double our receipts from membership dues this year!

In September a very significant conference was held between officers, staff and board members of The Nature Conservancy and of the National Audubon Society. At this meeting ways in which these two important conservation organizations might more effectively collaborate in the preservation of natural habitat were explored. Close liaison has been established between the staffs of these two agencies so that information may be shared and land preservation activities coordinated, and a joint committee has been authorized to study the possibilities of new approaches to preserving open space. All the participants felt that this meeting was an important milestone in the road toward more effective and cordial relations.

At the national office Mr. Paul Bruce Dowling, who has served devotedly for the preservation of natural areas since 1957, has tendered his resignation as assistant director effective December 31, 1964. His duties have been taken over by Mr. Herbert S. Hiller.

The first month of my presidency has been an exciting one. I am looking forward to meeting and working with many of you during the coming year.

DICK GOODWIN

## EMBLEM AWARDS OF THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Through a combination of circumstances and the generosity of Mr. David Swetland of Cleveland, Ohio, it became possible for The Nature Conservancy to undertake a program of awards to a number of volunteer workers in recognition of the time and effort devoted by them to the work of the Conservancy. The award itself is a gold pin consisting of The Nature Conservancy green leaf enameled thereon. In the first year it was determined by the Board of Governors that thirty such awards would be given and thereafter ten each year.

A committee was appointed by the Board to make recommendations for the first year, and the following individuals received awards at the 1964 Annual Meeting:

Mrs. Elna Bakker, of California

Mr. Richard M. Bowers, of Connecticut

Mr. John E. Coleman, of Ohio

(List continued on page 10)

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION

## THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

As of June 30, 1964

| ASSETS                                               | Operating<br>Fund   | Natural<br>Area<br>Funds | Endowment<br>Funds  | Total               |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Current Assets:                                      |                     |                          |                     |                     |
| Cash in Bank                                         | \$ 7,104.73         | \$ 4,428.87              | \$ 24,283.51        | \$ 35,817.11        |
| Imprest Funds                                        | 2,500.00            |                          |                     | 2,500.00            |
| Time Deposits                                        |                     | 125,000.00               |                     | 125,000.00          |
| Savings Deposits                                     |                     | 89,992.11                | 5,000.00            | 94,992.11           |
| Marketable Securities                                | 164,805.56          | 94,226.27                | 217,895.96          | 476,927.79          |
| Accrued Interest Receivable                          | 555.91              |                          |                     | 555.91              |
| Prepaid Expenses                                     | 740.33              |                          |                     | 740.33              |
| Natural Areas Project Advances                       |                     | 1,467.49                 |                     | 1,467.49            |
| Loans Receivable - Projects                          |                     | 472,626.39               |                     | 472,626.39          |
| Less provision for loans                             |                     | (472,626.39)             |                     | (472,626.39)        |
| Other Assets: Deposits                               | 435.00              |                          |                     | 435.00              |
| Fixed Assets:                                        |                     |                          |                     |                     |
| Land                                                 |                     | 1.00                     |                     | 1.00                |
| Furniture, Fixt. & Equip.                            | 12,703.10           |                          |                     | 12,703.10           |
| Total Assets:                                        | <u>\$188,844.63</u> | <u>\$315,115.74</u>      | <u>\$247,179.47</u> | <u>\$751,139.84</u> |
| LIABILITIES                                          |                     |                          |                     |                     |
| Current Liabilities:                                 |                     |                          |                     |                     |
| Collections Due Chapters                             | 2,748.48            |                          |                     | 2,748.48            |
| Project Funds Held by National Office                |                     | 28,427.75                |                     | 28,427.75           |
| Payroll Taxes & Withholdings                         | 1,381.18            |                          |                     | 1,381.18            |
| Invested in Fixed Assets:                            | 12,703.10           | 1.00                     |                     | 12,704.10           |
| Fund Balances:                                       |                     |                          |                     |                     |
| Restricted Funds                                     | 20,779.27           |                          |                     | 20,779.27           |
| Reserved for Endowment Funds                         |                     |                          | 247,179.47          | 247,179.47          |
| Reserved for National Natural Areas Acquisition Fund |                     | 2,023.38                 |                     | 2,023.38            |
| Unexpended Balance                                   |                     | 284,663.61               |                     | 284,663.61          |
| Unallocated                                          | 151,232.60          |                          |                     | 151,232.60          |
| Total Liabilities & Fund Balances                    | <u>\$188,844.63</u> | <u>\$315,115.74</u>      | <u>\$247,179.47</u> | <u>\$751,139.84</u> |

(For further details and explanation, a four-page financial summary is available upon request to the National Office.)

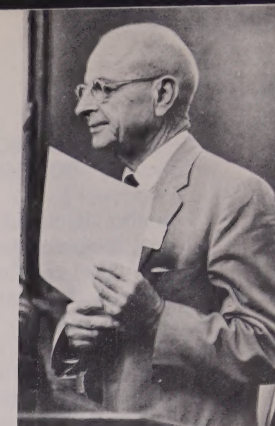




Richard H. Pough shown as he was delivering his address which was presented as the keynote speech of the Saturday morning gathering. Contrary to what the picture shows, Mr. Pough is not asleep and neither were his listeners. His address was well received and timely.  
(Photo courtesy of Paul Sorensen, Iowa Chapter)



Edward J. Meeman, having finished his morning address is listening to the questions put to him by one of his listeners.  
(Photo courtesy of Paul Sorensen, Iowa Chapter)



## CONFERENCE AND 15th ANNUAL MEETING,

The Nature Conservancy,  
University of Illinois,  
Urbana, Illinois

AUGUST 21-23, 1964

Left to Right: Elliott Donnelley, Member Board of Governors; George L. Collins, Retiring President; and Edward J. Meeman, Member Board of Governors.



Mr. Harold J. Zimmerman of the Ohio Chapter taking time to look over the wonderful photographic display prepared by the Oregon Chapter.  
(Photo courtesy of Paul Sorensen, Iowa Chapter)



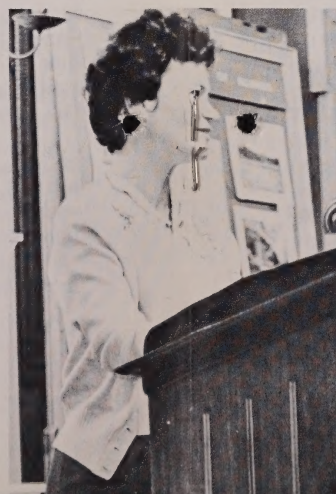
Dr. Lewis J. Stannard, Univ. of Ill., speaking before the Annual Membership Meeting.  
(Photo courtesy Robert H. Perkins, of the Illinois Chapter)

Mr. M. M. Nelson, Deputy Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, speaking before the Annual Membership Meeting.  
(Photo courtesy Robert H. Perkins, of the Illinois Chapter)



Left to Right: Dr. W. A. Van Eck, Edward J. Meeman, Harley Webster, Huey D. Johnson. These four men have just finished the Saturday Luncheon and are awaiting the program to begin which included awarding the pins which were given for outstanding efforts in the Conservancy's work.

Dr. Maria Buchinger, Director of the Latin American Desk, shown delivering her talk on Conservation Efforts in Latin America. The talk was part of the Saturday afternoon program which followed the annual business meeting.



Annual Meeting - Richard Pough, Elting Arnold, and George L. Collins.  
(Photo by John E. Coleman, Dayton, Ohio)



Left: Mr. Herbert S. Hiller of Verona, N.J. Right: President Richard H. Goodwin of New London, Conn. In the background is the display picturing many of the important projects completed in 1964 all over the U.S.  
(Photo courtesy of Paul Sorensen, Iowa Chapter)

Dr. Conrad Chapman (left), of Boston, Mass., member of the Board of Governors is shown in impromptu conference with the Executive Director, Dr. Walter S. Boardman. They are seated in the main lobby of the Illini Union at the University of Illinois.  
(Photo courtesy of Paul Sorensen, Iowa Chapter)



## CONSERVANCY ELECTS OFFICERS, BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Dr. Richard H. Goodwin of New London, Connecticut, was elected President of The Nature Conservancy at the Annual Meeting held at Urbana, Illinois, August 21-23, 1964.

George L. Collins of San Francisco was elected Vice President for Administration; George R. Cooley of Albany, New York was elected Vice President for Finance; and F. Raymond Fosberg of Falls Church, Virginia was reelected Vice President for Science. Elting Arnold of Chevy Chase, Maryland was reelected Secretary, and Charles N. Mason of Washington, D. C. was reelected Treasurer.

The following members of the Board of Governors whose terms were expiring were renominated and elected: Joseph J. Hickey of Wisconsin; William M. Larrabee of New York; Cyrus Mark of Illinois; and Edward J. Meeman of Tennessee.

Also elected to serve on the Board filling vacancies created by retirements were Alexander B. Adams of Connecticut, Walter J. Breckenridge of Minnesota, Miss Nina Cullinan of Texas, Kenneth W. Hunt of Ohio, Ingram H. Richardson of Maine, Robert Rienow of New York, Gordon D. Alcorn of Washington, W. Dow Harvey of Connecticut, Richard Gordon Miller of Nevada, and Mrs. L.M.C. Smith of Pennsylvania.

This conference was highly informative and the Illinois Chapter, which served as host, went all-out in their preparations for a successful meeting.

Business sessions were held at the Illini Union of the University of Illinois, at Urbana, and field trips were taken to Kickapoo State Park, the University of Illinois Woods, and the Forest of the Wabash.

Keynote speakers were Edward J. Meeman, Conservation Editor of The Scripps-Howard Newspapers; and Richard H. Pough, both members of the Board of Governors. Copies of these talks are available by writing to the national office of the Conservancy.

Dr. S. C. Kendigh of the University of Illinois, a member of the Conservancy, welcomed the membership to the University

on behalf of President David D. Henry.

Other speeches were made by our retiring President, George L. Collins; Mr. M. M. Nelson, Deputy Chief of the U. S. Forest Service; Mr. Ben H. Thompson, Assistant Director of the U. S. National Park Service; Mrs. Adele Wilson on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior; and Dr. Maria Buchinger, Head of the Latin American Desk of The Nature Conservancy. Copies of all these talks as well as the Annual Report of the Executive Director may be obtained by writing the national office.

Our grateful appreciation is extended to the entire membership for making this such a delightful meeting, and special thanks are due Dr. and Mrs. S. Glidden Baldwin, Mr. Cyrus Mark and Dr. Lewis Stannard of the Illinois Chapter who made us all feel so much at home at the University of Illinois.



### EMBLEM AWARDS (cont. from p. 6)

Mrs. Beula Edmiston, of California  
Mr. George B. Fell, of Illinois  
Mr. George C. Freeman, Jr., of Virginia  
Mr. Robert J. Hamerslag, of New York  
Dr. Hugh H. Iltis, of Wisconsin  
Mrs. Allan F. Kitchel, of Connecticut  
Dr. Donald B. Lawrence, of Minnesota  
Mr. Putnam Livermore, of California  
Miss Dorothea Marston, of Maine  
Dr. Mildred E. Mathias, of California  
Mr. Erard A. Matthiessen, of Conn.  
Mrs. Ruth N. McCammon, of Ohio  
Dr. Jack McCormick, of Pennsylvania  
Mr. Edward N. Munns, of California  
Miss Hedwig Michel, of Florida  
Dr. Thomas Morley, of Minnesota  
Dr. William A. Niering, of Connecticut  
Mr. Paul J. Olson, of Wisconsin  
Mrs. Greta Pallister, of Ohio  
Mr. George K. Ripley, of N. H.  
Mrs. Shirley A. Robertson, of Maryland  
Mr. John F. Shanklin, of D. C.  
Dr. Lewis J. Stannard, Jr., of Illinois  
Mr. Donald B. Stough, of Virginia  
Mr. David W. Sweetland, of Ohio  
Mr. Samuel C. Yeaton, of New York

## AT MOSS LAKE

By Gretchen Stevenson  
(Western New York Chapter)

It was a beautiful day in August, cool, crisp and sunny. What could be better for a trek to Moss Lake? With a picnic lunch, camera and binoculars all packed, we stopped for our friends, and off to Moss Lake for the day! The trip over and back was a treat in itself, as the rolling foothills of the Alleghenies always provide pastoral beauty.

Moss Lake is owned by The Nature Conservancy, Western New York Chapter. It is a tiny lake, practically filled with sphagnum moss, creating a bog which produces the lovely plants not found in dry areas. The rich red pitcher plants were exotic, and we searched for the tiny gem-like sun dew which were prevalent. The white cotton flowers were most abundant.

Wild cranberries and blueberries predicted wildlife would not go hungry this fall. The Indian pipes were still present in their little stands among the leaves, perhaps a little grayer than the pure white they were in the spring.

We enjoyed the walk through the hemlocks and saw an oven bird poking around the leaves. The chipping sparrow near the picnic area was still feeding young. Chickadees and white-breasted nuthatches would be heard nearby.

Moss Lake is not a public park. It is privately owned by The Nature Conservancy. It was acquired with the primary purpose to preserve its quaintness, undisturbed for wildlife. The public who visit the sanctuary must note the rules on the entrance sign—no berry picking, no flower picking, or taking up any plants, no fishing or hunting. This is a nature preserve. Trees fall and logs rot, all providing the true habitat for wildlife. Clearing or trimming never go hand in hand with wild areas. Here are dead trees and they are considered valuable for homes of many birds and wildlife. Dead trees are not cut down here. And yet the woods is beautiful, unhindered or helped by human hands.

There was no sign of color yet at Moss Lake except for the water lilies or the pitcher plants. Autumn will bring a

change to Moss Lake. Color. And I think we'll be getting out the picnic basket, the camera and the binoculars again, and drive over those Allegheny foothills once more, before the snow flies, to see Moss Lake.

## AMERICAN MOTORS CORPORATION CONSERVATION AWARDS FOR 1963



In the summer issue of The News there appeared an article about recipients of this award who were members of The Nature Conservancy. Due to an oversight on the part of the Editor, Mrs. Claire S. Batchelder, of

Concord, New Hampshire, was not mentioned. Mrs. Batchelder, who is a board member of The New Hampshire Chapter, is also state education director for the Audubon Society of New Hampshire. She has been active in preparation and distribution of literature on National Wildlife Week to schools, libraries, press and radio. In addition, she provided educational material on the problem of chemical poisons for the state legislature and the governor, and was appointed to the Governor's Pesticide Committee which is responsible for drafting of legislation to regulate use of chemical poisons for protection of both man and wildlife. She has served as an officer or member of 13 conservation-oriented committees, commissions or organizations. The Conservancy is indeed fortunate to have Mrs. Batchelder as a member.

COPIES OF THE MINUTES OF THE  
ANNUAL MEETING ARE AVAILABLE  
UPON REQUEST TO THE NATIONAL  
OFFICE.

## THE NATURE CONSERVANCY RECEIVES AWARD FROM THE U. S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The Nature Conservancy was honored at its Annual Meeting by the presentation of a certificate by the National Park Service, designating Elder Creek, California a natural history landmark. Mr. Ben H. Thompson, Assistant Director, made the presentation on behalf of George Hartzog, Director of the National Park Service. Mr. Thompson's remarks follow:

"Each of us here has probably seen greater loss of the naturally created beauty of the world in which we live than has occurred in the lifetime of any previous generation.

When I first went to southern Arizona as a youngster, we lived a short distance from a main road, which was a winding, sandy track through the desert. The desert, broken only by scattered ranches, reached away in all directions to the mountains and beyond. It seemed limitless. The air was clear and you could see blue mountains with sharp clear outlines for a hundred miles. Children playing in the desert found it interesting and beautiful. There is almost infinite variety in the natural grouping of desert plants and rocks that presents natural gardens of exquisite beauty wherever you might look. I remember going swimming in the Gila River, second only to the Colorado River as they both flow through Arizona. The Gila was a sparkling clear clean stream flowing at the base of desert mountains. I only have to close my eyes to see it.

But if you go there today, with your eyes open, you will see that there is no Gila River. Its waters have been entirely impounded many miles upstream for irrigation. The bed of the once clear stream is now lost in brush and weeds, for over two hundred miles. The desert that reached limitlessly to the mountains has vanished into cotton fields and mile after mile of houses. The sandy desert road that was such fun to walk in barefoot, is a four-lane concrete highway over which tractor trailers, trucks, and cars roar ceaselessly night and day.

I mention the southern Arizona desert because in doing so I can state from first-hand experience what all of us here

have seen happen in our lifetimes in almost any part of the United States.

It is hardly possible to realize or comprehend the loss of naturally created beauty on the east coast, the west coast, and around every large city and metropolitan area across the country. Moreover, the speed at which we are losing the natural beauty of our land is being accelerated.

Sociologists predict that our population will be more than doubled by the end of this century. Increasing population makes increasing demands on natural resources. Our once vast virgin forests are diminishing. The July issue of The National Geographic Magazine, in lead articles on the coast redwoods, shows that virgin redwood forests that once reached for some 500 miles along the coast are now reduced to a few scattered remnants which, at the present rate of cutting will be virtually gone within about 25 more years. Virgin Douglas fir, a close associate of the coast redwoods, has been used even more extensively. Today, only remnant virgin stands remain. Since we are still battering the wilderness and conquering the frontier faster than any generation before us, the purchase and preservation of outstanding remnants of wildland by The Nature Conservancy is one of the most important and significant aspects of our present civilization.

The six- to seven-thousand-acre watershed of Elder Creek, a tributary of the Eel River in northwestern California contains a magnificent stand of virgin Douglas fir, associated with coast redwoods and related trees and plants that once covered vast areas of the west coast. The Nature Conservancy bought the privately owned lands in Elder Creek watershed and the Bureau of Land Management has withdrawn and is protecting the publicly owned lands in the Basin. This is citizen and Government cooperation in wildland conservation at its best.

Elder Creek is one of only seven such remnants of nature thus far recognized by the Secretary of the Interior's Advisory Board on National Parks as being

worthy of designation as a Natural History Landmark.

As a representative of the Secretary of the Interior and of the Director of the National Park Service, I extend congratulations to The Nature Conservancy for this important conservation achievement and I take pleasure in presenting to you this certificate designating the Elder Creek watershed as a Natural History Landmark."



Left to right: Dr. Walter S. Boardman, Ben H. Thompson and George L. Collins looking over the certificate awarded The Nature Conservancy by the National Park Service.

Photo courtesy of Paul Sorensen,  
Iowa Chapter

### State and Chapter Notes

.....Earlier this year Mrs. Donald B. Bischoff, of South Duxbury, Massachusetts, at the annual convention of the Massachusetts Federation of Garden Clubs, was presented with the Mildred A. Parker award for her work in conservation. Mrs. Bischoff is South Shore District Director of the Federation, as well as being the official guide at The Nature Conservancy's Black Pond Quaking Bog in Norwell. Mrs. Bischoff conducts tours year round, although late spring and summer are the most popular times.

.....Dr. S. Galen Smith of the Iowa Chapter reports that Governor Hughes' Committee on Conservation of Outdoor Resources will include a strong system of state nature preserves as one of its recommendations. This system, to be modeled after those in Wisconsin and Illinois, would be administered by a new state board on preserves and would include areas in

private as well as public ownership at various governmental levels. It is hoped that necessary legislation can be prepared for presentation to the 1965 legislative session.....Dr. Smith also reports that the threat of development of extensive ski facilities at Pilot Knob State Park in north-central Iowa has been averted by the vigorous protests of many conservationists. A request to the State Conservation Commission for permission to clear four runs through dense woodland and to construct a motorized tow was withdrawn in June. Pilot Knob, the high point of a series of forested morrainal hills lying in a large southward bend of the Winnebago River, supports a fragment of an island of forest in a predominantly tall-grass prairie region. It has definite boreal characteristics, with aspen dominant on the knob, the only known floating Sphagnum bog in Iowa, and a population of red-backed vole. The ski development was opposed by the Iowa Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, the Izaak Walton League, the Governor's Committee on Conservation of Outdoor Resources and Governor Hughes himself. Hundreds of letters to the Conservation Commission and Governor Hughes, many from outside the state, were essential to the defeat of this proposal.

### NEW LIFE MEMBERS (cont. from p. 5)

Mrs. Doris Leonard  
Mr. Edward J. Mathews  
Mrs. Rowe B. Metcalf  
Mr. James R. Moore  
Miss Anna Laura Myers  
Mrs. Margaret M. Nice  
Miss K. Ordway  
Mr. Edward L. Peterson  
Miss Frances H. Pickel  
Miss Laura C. Pickel  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward L. Ryerson  
Miss Elizabeth Stone  
Mr. Robert G. Stone  
Dr. John H. Storer  
Miss Myrtle R. Walgreen

## BOOK REVIEWS

**ROADLESS AREA**, by Paul Brooks, published by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York City, 260 pp., \$4.95.

Adventures of a man and wife in the American wilderness and other remote places from the Alaskan tundra to the game reserves of East Africa—recounted with rare beauty and quiet humor. With 67 pen and ink sketches by the author.

Most members of The Nature Conservancy are familiar with the name of Paul Brooks—he is as well known among conservationists as he is as editor-in-chief of Houghton Mifflin Company, the distinguished Boston publishers. He is a former director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, is a trustee of Trustees for Conservation and a member of the National Council of THE NATURE CONSERVANCY.

His writing is smooth, even-flowing, understandable, and almost poetic. For instance, from his chapter on the Great Smokies: "Some places are like some poems; return to them again and again, and each time they reveal new meanings and new delights. Such a place is the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, a unique remnant of primeval America, 54 miles long and 20 wide, lying along the spine of the southern Appalachians that forms the border between North Carolina and Tennessee. . . . A park like this is a living museum, whose exhibits change with the altitude and the seasons." The words "living museum" are, of course, by-words of The Nature Conservancy itself.

His chapter on Mexico's California was fascinating, and the family safari in East Africa was delightful. Somehow the reader identifies himself with the author as he follows him from dry, wind-swept plateaus to the last frontiers of Alaska. Paul Brooks really got around on this trip!

"Man's craving for wilderness increases in direct proportion to growing urbanizations. The more city pavements, the more suburban sidewalks, the more precious become the surviving forest trails." Why not take one of these forest trails along with Mr. Brooks into the ROADLESS AREA! It's a hike well worth taking.

**TOTAL CONSERVATION**, by Frank D. Steiner, published by Vantage Press, Inc., New York, N.Y., 82 pp., \$3.00.

"This little volume was started ten years ago by a group of serious men who had witnessed raped and burned forests, eroded mountain slopes, polluted rivers, desecrated landscapes and the mass slaughter of wildlife, and were eager to do something about it." Thus begins a marvelous little book presented in the form of a quiz on 25 major conservation subjects. The quiz is limited to five questions for each subject, hence merely scratches the surface; however, these questions will give you pause to stop and think. Just how much do you know about conservation? What are its needs? What is desirable? How can the facts be put across? The need for total conservation in the battle for survival in a hungry world is the urgent message of this factually—and alarmingly—informative book by a civil engineer who minces no words in indicating our preoccupation with moon rockets and satellites. . . . while our natural world is literally crumbling away. Americans spent a record \$413 million last year for non-prescription pain relievers, according to a recent news release. Of this amount, \$350 million alone went for the purchase of aspirin. We are spending well over \$10 billion annually for alcoholic beverages and well over \$5 billion for tobacco, while conservation is considered by most of us a necessary evil. **TOTAL CONSERVATION** is recommended reading for members of The Nature Conservancy, written by an active member of our organization.

### HONORARY MEMBERS

Four persons were elected as honorary members of The Nature Conservancy at the Annual Membership Meeting in Urbana. Following provision in the by-laws and long established custom, these persons widely recognized for their outstanding service and devotion to the work of The Nature Conservancy, were included in this distinguished group. Those so elected were: Mr. Anthony Anable, Mrs. Anthony Anable, Dr. Margery Carlson, and Mr. G. Flippo Gravatt.



View of property The Nature Conservancy holds mortgage on (seen from lake towards shore).  
(Photo by Huey D. Johnson)

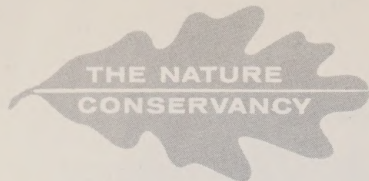
## Upper Priest Lake, Idaho

At the request of the U.S. Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy has acted toward preserving Upper Priest Lake in Idaho by lending the owners of Planned Development Property on Priest Lake \$30,000. By so doing The Nature Conservancy received a signed agreement by the owners that they would continue for one year to negotiate with public agencies in an attempt to leave the land in its natural condition. The \$30,000 was loaned, interest free, and is covered by a mortgage on the property. Although the problem had been known for some time, the Conservancy was not called upon until May 22, 1964, at which time the Forest Service described a June 1, 1964 deadline in saving the area. Though other groups were working on the acquisition, the lake would have been lost to development without our immediate action.

Upper Priest Lake lies just south of the Canadian Border and is the last, large undeveloped lake in the region. The West side of the lake is within the Kaniksu National Forest. The East side is predominantly owned by the State of Idaho. The area includes a 1,000 acre natural study area withdrawn for White Pine research. This is called the TePee Creek Natural Area and is withdrawn in the Forest Service boundaries. What is believed to be the world's last remaining herd of woodland caribou is found in this area. Also grizzly bears are found in the region. Trees on the parcel include hemlock, western red cedar, white pine, alpine fir, spruce and tamarack, all in their virgin state.

Senator Frank Church of Idaho has sponsored a bill to add the threatened areas to the Kaniksu National Forest, with payment to the owners to be reimbursed from the newly-created Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Senator from Oregon, Mrs. Neuberger, has co-sponsored the bill. Senator Church says that "once inside the lake, the reason for preserving it becomes even more apparent. The air is unusually tranquil, and the lake surface, protected by the mountains, is smooth enough to see the cutthroat trout jumping at great distances. The shore is lined by plants and intermittent sandy beaches which serve as the threshold to an unbroken forest, luxuriant with such a diverse combination of evergreen and deciduous trees as to make a necklace for the lake in autumn of brilliant, splashing color."

The Nature Conservancy is working very closely with Senator Church (who, incidentally, is a member of The Nature Conservancy), the Forest Service, and others, and it is expected that the preservation of Upper Priest Lake will become a fait accompli in the not far distant future.



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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY . . . is the only national conservation organization whose primary purpose is the preservation—by their actual acquisition—of natural areas having outstanding esthetic or scientific importance.

Representatives, chapters, and local committees help carry on Conservancy activities within local areas. Membership dues of \$5.00 per year and other contributions for the general support of the organization are shared with chapters on an apportionment basis. Projects to preserve specific areas are normally financed by local efforts through gifts and donations, with technical advice, loans, and sometimes grants from the national organization.

The Nature Conservancy has preserved or helped preserve such outstanding areas as Tucker Prairie and Holly Ridge (Missouri); Forest of Nisine Marks (California); Tannersville Bog (Pennsylvania); Moss Lake and Mianus River Gorge (New York); Battle Creek Cypress Swamp (Maryland); Mettler's Woods (New Jersey); Walcott Preserve (Connecticut); Caledonia Oaks (Minnesota); and the Volo and Wauconda Bogs (Illinois).

The Nature Conservancy works closely with many scientific and conservation groups. It participates in the activities of such organizations as the Natural Resources Council of America, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Institute of Biological Sciences, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.